

for the California State University at Bakersfield (CSUB) Foundation to purchase equipment needed by the Valley Fever Vaccine Project, additional funding is needed to develop a vaccine, particularly as incidences of Valley Fever continue to increase while treatment options are limited.

Thus, I have introduced the Valley Fever Vaccine Development Act, which would authorize, from Fiscal Year 2007 through Fiscal Year 2012, funding for grants through the Centers for Disease Control for efforts to develop a vaccine to prevent and reduce the prevalence of this serious disease. As the development of a Valley Fever vaccine will directly enhance public health, I ask my colleagues to join me as I work to enact this important legislation.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this misguided budget resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against it.

The Federal budget is much more than just a government document; it is a statement of our Nation's priorities and values. I am tremendously proud that in my first term as the Second District of North Carolina's Representative in the U.S. House, Congress and the President balanced the budget for the first time in a generation. Until just a few years ago, the budget remained balanced and the surpluses we produced were being used to pay down the national debt and strengthen the solvency of Social Security. But this Administration and the Republican Congressional Leadership have squandered the budget surpluses on wasteful tax policies and are running record budget deficits as far as the eye can see.

This budget offers more of the same failed policies and it flunks the test of moral leadership by increasing the burdens on the poor, the middle class, families struggling to get into the middle class and future generations. This budget contains devastating cuts to essential services for our families and will leave the statutory debt at a record level of \$11.3 trillion. The American people deserve better.

As the only former State schools chief serving in Congress, public education is my priority. Education holds the key to the American Dream for middle class families, and the Federal Government has a solemn obligation to help all of our people make the most of their God-given abilities. This budget eliminates 42 Federal education initiatives, cuts funding for education, social services and training by \$4.6 billion below the amount needed to maintain

purchasing power at the current level and will cut this funding more deeply each subsequent year.

Specifically, this budget completely dismantles: vocational education (\$1.3 billion); Perkins Loans (\$730 million); Safe and Drug-Free Schools state grants (\$347 million); GEAR-UP college readiness for low-income students (\$303 million); education technology (\$287 million); and Even Start family literacy services (\$99 million). The budget cuts \$15 billion from the amount authorized for the No Child Left Behind education reform effort and cuts the Federal contribution for special education from the current 17.7 percent to only 17.0 percent for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) despite years of rhetoric from the Republicans claiming to support IDEA. And while the costs of college continue to rise, this budget contains none of the funds needed to raise Pell Grants beyond the 2003 funding level.

In addition, this Republican budget resolution cuts funding for homeland security, including port security by \$6.1 billion over 5 years, cuts essential services for working families by \$9.4 billion, cuts veterans' health care by \$6.0 billion, slashes funding for health by \$18.1 billion below current services and fails to protect the environment by imposing a cut of \$25 billion over the next 5 years.

In contrast, the Spratt Substitute will balance the budget by 2012. It includes tough Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) budget enforcement rules that require the cost of any new mandatory spending or revenue legislation to be fully offset. Vice President CHENEY has claimed "deficits don't matter," but the American people know better. The Spratt budget provides \$4.6 billion more for education in 2007 than the Republican budget and adds \$45.3 billion over 5 years that our States and communities desperately need for quality schools.

The Spratt Substitute keeps our commitment to veterans by including \$8.6 billion more than the Republican budget for veterans' health care. It provides \$6.5 billion more over 5 years for homeland security, including port security and rejects the Republican cut to Army National Guard troop strength and the cut to Cooperative Threat Reduction that protects America from weapons of mass destruction. The Spratt alternative budget provides \$18 billion more over 5 years to fund health priorities cut by the Republican budget, including medical research at NIH and CDC, rural health activities, and graduate medical education for children's hospitals. Finally, the Spratt Substitute rejects the Republican budget cuts for environmental protection and requires an honest, separate vote on any proposal to raise the limit on the national debt.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I believe the Federal budget is the public expression of our Nation's priorities and values. I urge Congress to reject the Republican budget that is wrong for America and support the Spratt Substitute that restores funding for essential services for a stronger country and a brighter tomorrow for our families.

RECOGNIZING VICTOR FONTANEZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing United States Army Private Victor Fontanez, a soldier who exemplifies stellar qualities of dedication and service to Northwest Missouri and the United States of America in his service to our country in World War II. Beginning his service in January of 1941, Victor served with the honor and integrity that we have come to admire.

In his military service during World War II, Victor landed in the 9th Infantry Division Company B 47th Infantry 1st Battalion engaged in the African section of the European Front. During an operation in April of 1943 located in Tunisia, Private Fontanez took shrapnel fire and was rewarded the Purple Heart. After recovery he was transferred to the 36th Infantry Division as a Combat Engineer in the Italian Campaign. After the liberation of Rome and victories throughout Italy, Victor and the 36th Infantry Division invaded Southern France on August 15, 1944.

During this invasion of France by the 36th Infantry, Private Fontanez had witnessed the explosion of an Allied plane over the beach. The plane and crew crashed into a lagoon nearby and Private Fontanez acting without hesitation rescued some of the injured flight crew. It was this act of selflessness and bravery that earned Private Fontanez the Soldiers Medal for Heroism.

Victor Fontanez's service to the United States of America in defending freedom will never be forgotten. His courage and dedication when his country needed him the most is something to be admired. I am honored to represent one of America's great heroes and I ask the United States Congress to join me in honoring his service.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WILLIAMSON FLYING CLUB, INC.
CELEBRATED ON MAY 18, 2006

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Williamson Flying Club, Inc. The Williamson Flying Club began as a shared dream by five men from Williamson, New York. These men held informal hearings to share their aspirations of wanting to fly and starting their own flying club. On May 4, 1956, these men began to realize part of their dream and purchased their first aircraft. With time, the group began to expand their membership and services. By May 18, 1956, the Williamson Flying Club became incorporated as a member corporation. In the beginning, the group operated from the Palmyra airport, later they moved to a dirt strip that became the Williamson-Sodus Airport. The Williamson-Sodus Airport was an 1800-foot runway that was seeded in July 1957. Over the years the runway has been upgraded and is now a 3,800 ft. hard surface asphalt runway with modern lighting and taxiways and